

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

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1. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes comprising reacting isocyanate groups of a polyisocyanate with hydroxyl groups of different alcohols comprising

(i) a first alcohol [selected from] which is one or more diols containing at least 10 carbon atoms;

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(ii) a second alcohol selected from the group consisting of alkylene diols having not more than 8 carbon atoms, alkyleneoxy diols having not more than 8 carbon atoms, polyols with at least three hydroxyl groups, and mixtures thereof;

(iii) a third alcohol selected from the group consisting of (a) diols containing a charged group or atom, (b) diols containing an uncharged group or atom capable of charge formation and at least partially converting the uncharged group or atom into a charged group or atom, (c) polyols and further reaction of one or more hydroxyl group derived from the polyol with a compound containing a charged group or atom or a compound containing an uncharged group or atom capable of charge formation and at least partially converting said uncharged group or atom into a charged group or atom, and mixtures thereof.

2. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes according to claim 1, [c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that] wherein the second alcohol is [selected from polyols] a polyol containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms.

3. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes according to claim 1 [or 2], [c h a r a c t e r i s e d in that in the production of] wherein the charged polyurethanes produced by the method are anionic polyurethanes[,] and the first alcohol is an aliphatic diol having an aliphatic side-chain substituent having at least 10 carbon atoms.

4. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes according to claim 1, [2 or 3, characterised in that] wherein the polyurethane is anionic.

5. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes according to claim 1, [2 or 3, characterised in that] wherein the polyurethane is cationic.

6. (Amended) A process for the production of charged polyurethanes according to claim 1, [2 or 3, characterised in that] wherein the polyurethane is amphoteric.

7. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the third alcohol is selected from the group consisting of (a) diols containing a charged group or atom, (b) diols containing an uncharged group or atom capable of charge formation, and mixtures thereof.

8. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the first and second alcohols are introduced into the process for reaction before introducing the third alcohol.

9. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein (i) the first alcohol is an aliphatic diol having an aliphatic substituent with at least 10 carbon atoms; (ii) the second alcohol is selected from the group consisting of diols, triols, tetraols, and mixtures thereof; and [(ii)] (iii) the third alcohol is selected from the group consisting of N-alkandiol dialkylamines, acid addition salts thereof and quaternization products thereof, N-alkyl dialkanolamines, acid addition salts thereof and quaternization products thereof, diols containing a carboxylic acid group, diols containing a

carboxylate group, diols containing a sulfonic acid group, diols containing a sulfonate group, and mixtures thereof.

10. (Amended) A process according to [any of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein the process is carried out using from 10 to 60 mole% of (I) hydroxyl groups of the first alcohol, from 3 to 50 mole% of (II) hydroxyl groups of the second alcohol and from 25 to 60 mole% of (III) hydroxyl groups of the third alcohol, the sum of percentages of (I) + (II) + (III) being 100.

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11. (Amended) Charged polyurethane obtainable by a process according to [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1.

12. (Amended) Aqueous dispersion containing a charged polyurethane according to claim 11 [or containing a charged polyurethane produced according to any of claims 1 to 10].

13. (Amended) A method of surface-treating a material in sheet or web form [by] comprising applying a composition to the surface of the material, the composition comprising [characterised in that the composition comprises] a charged polyurethane according to claim 11 [or an aqueous dispersion containing a charged polyurethane according to claim 12].

14. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, [characterised in that] wherein the material in sheet or web form is a cellulosic product.

15. (Amended) A method according to claim 13 [or 14], [characterised in that it] wherein the method is a surface sizing method [which is carried out using] and the composition is an aqueous sizing composition.

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16. (Amended) A method according to claim 13 [or 14],
[characterised in that it] wherein the method is a paper coating method
[which is carried out using] and the composition is an aqueous pigmented
composition.

Please add the following new claims:

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--17. Aqueous dispersion containing a charged polyurethane
produced according to claim 1.

18. A method of surface-treating a material in sheet or web form
comprising applying an aqueous dispersion the surface of the material, the
aqueous dispersion containing a charged polyurethane according to claim 12.- -

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please add the following abstract on a separate page after the claims:

--Abstract

The present invention relates to a process for the production of charged polyurethanes comprising reacting isocyanate groups of a polyisocyanate with hydroxyl groups of alcohols comprising (i) a first alcohol selected from one or more diols containing at least 10 carbon atoms; (ii) a second alcohol selected from alkylene diols having not more than 8 carbon atoms, alkyleneoxy diols having not more than 8 carbon atoms, polyols, and mixtures thereof; (iii) a third alcohol selected from (a) diols containing a charged group or atom, (b) diols containing an uncharged group or atom capable of charge formation and at least partially converting the uncharged group or atom into a charged group or atom, (c) polyols and further reaction of one or more hydroxyl group derived from the polyol with a compound containing a charged group or atom or a compound containing an